

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, claims 5, 10-15, 25, and 26 will be pending. Claims 8, 9, 23 and 24 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5, 7, 10, 11, 25, and 26 have been amended. The amendments are supported by the specification and original claims and, therefore, do not add new matter.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The rejection of claims 8 and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Goodearl et al. (June 1999) WO 99/28470, is respectfully traversed.

It is alleged that claims 8 and 11-15 are anticipated by Goodearl because the claims require only that the polynucleotide comprise at least 15 bases of and is capable of specifically hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to the nucleic acids of the Markush group and that the polynucleotide of Goodearl meets these limitations. Applicants respectfully traverse. While the Applicants maintain the traversal previously made of record and submit that Goodearl fails to disclose any 15 nucleotide sequences, the claims have been amended and are no longer drawn to a polynucleotide containing only 15 continuous bases, although Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue this subject matter in a related application. In particular, claim 8 has been canceled and claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 7. As such, the current amendments render the rejection moot.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Goodearl et al. is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 5, 7-15, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

It is alleged in the Office action that the claimed polynucleotide sequences are defined in the claims using an indefinite article and, therefore, the structural limitations set forth in the claims would be present in many functionally divergent molecules. In particular, the polynucleotides of claims 7-15 and 23-26 are interpreted by the Examiner as broadly encompassing any nucleic acid encoding “a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence” or “having a nucleotide sequence” that can include any sequence set forth in the identified SEQ ID NO, including fragments of the identified SEQ ID NO’s of two or more amino acids/nucleotides in length. For example, with respect to claims 5 and 7, the Examiner has interpreted the phrase “having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2” as broadly including any amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, including any two or more amino acid sequence fragment of SEQ ID NO:2. As such, the Examiner alleges that the claims embrace polynucleotides having broadly divergent properties which are not adequately described in terms of structure and function.

Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the Examiner’s interpretation of the claims is not reasonable in light of the disclosure in the specification or the claims viewed as a whole. In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, however, the claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion. In particular, the claims have been amended to include the definite article “the” in referring to a sequence identified by a SEQ ID NO. For example, claim 5 has been amended to recite “having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2”; claim 7 has been amended to recite “having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2” and “having the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1”; claim 10 has been amended to recite “having the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5”; and claim 26 has been amended to recite “having the nucleotide sequence as

set forth in SEQ ID NO:3". Additionally, claims 8, 9, 23 and 24 have been canceled herein and claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 7.

As such, the current claims are more clearly directed to polynucleotides comprising the entire sequence set forth in the respective SEQ ID NOs recited in the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 7-15, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Schlegel et al. (WO 01/60860) is respectfully traversed.

It is alleged that Schlegel discloses a nucleic acid comprising a sequence that is identical to nucleotides 1-4727 of the instant SEQ ID NO:3 and encodes the instant SEQ ID NO:4 (see also, Office communication mailed 4/28/2004). Applicants again point out, however, that according to the sequence alignment provided by the Examiner, the nucleic acid sequence of Schlegel contains bases that do not match SEQ ID NO:3 and that Schlegel does not disclose a complete sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3. The Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to page 5, second column of the sequence alignment provided by the Examiner in the Office communication mailed 4/28/2004, which illustrates mismatched bases at bases 1963 and 2071 of the query sequence (a copy of the sequence alignment marked to show the mismatched bases is submitted herein as Exhibit A). As such, Schlegel does not teach a polynucleotide having the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, as currently claimed.

It is further alleged in the Office action that the claim is not limited to a polynucleotide comprising the entire SEQ ID NO:3, but encompasses a polynucleotide comprising any portion of SEQ ID NO:3. As set forth above, however, claim 26 has been amended to recite "a polynucleotide having the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3" and, therefore, is more clearly drawn to a polynucleotide comprising the full length SEQ ID NO:3.

The Examiner further alleges that the fragments of SEQ ID NO:3 encompassed by the claims are fully disclosed by Schlegel. Applicants point out, however, that while Schlegel

appears to teach a 4804 base nucleic acid sequence that is not identical to the current SEQ ID NO:3, Schlegel fails to teach polynucleotides limited to any particular segment of the prior art polynucleotide. More specifically, Schlegel does not teach a polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide as set forth in nucleic acid residues 1-331, 799-903, 1232-1543, 2147-2486, or 2964-4756 of SEQ ID NO:3, as required by the current claim 26. Applicants submit that these elements are missing from the teachings of Schlegel, thereby precluding a finding of anticipation.

It is further noted in the Office action that the rejection has not been set forth against claims directed to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 because the Examiner was unable to determine if such a polynucleotide was taught in the priority documents of Schlegel. A review of the priority documents of Schlegel by the Applicants similarly did not reveal any teachings as to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, as currently claimed. If the Examiner believes this to be in error, Applicants invite the Examiner to specifically point out where in the priority documents of Schlegel the claimed polynucleotide can be found. Applicants submit that the filing date of the current application and the support for the claimed invention is prior to the filing date of Schlegel.

In summary, for the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the cited reference does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, removal of the rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly lacking novelty in light of Schlegel et al., is respectfully requested.

In re Application of:
Kumagai and Dunphy
Application No.: 09/982,091
Filed: October 17, 2001
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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: CIT1320-1

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if there are any questions relating to this application.

Please charge any additional fees, or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 15, 2005



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Attachment: Exhibit A

	QY	3721	CAGCCAAAGCACTGCAGAGAATGCCCAGTGGCCTATGGTTATTTCAGGAATCAAAGTCTT	3780
	Dd	3721	CAGCCAAAGCACTGCAGAGAATGCCAGTGGCCTATGGTTATTTCAGGAATCAAAGTCTT	3780
	QY	3781	TGCTCAGAAATGCCCTTTTGAGGCCNATCAGACAGCGAAGTGTCTCATACAGGTGAAGACAGGCT	3840
	Dd	3781	TGCTCAGAAATGCCCTTTTGAGGCCNATCAGACAGCGAAGTGTCTCATACAGGTGAAGACAGGCT	3840
	QY	3841	CACTGCTTAARCCAGCCCAAAGCTGTGCTTCAGAAAATGGCTCTCTCTCTCACCATRACC	3900
	Dd	3841	CACTGCTTAARCCAGCCCAAAGCTGTGCTTCAGAAAATGGCTCTCTCTCTCACCATRACC	3900
	QY	3901	CCAGTGTCTCTCGAAATTCAGAAACCTTGTCTCTTTTCATACACTTTCTCTCTCAAGGCTG	3960
	Dd	3901	CCAGTGTCTCTCGAAATTCAGAAACCTTGTCTCTTTTCATACACTTTCTCTCTCAAGGCTG	3960
	QY	3961	AGCGCGCAAGAGNAATCGCTTAAGTCTCAGAAATCCAGAAATCCAGAAAGGACTCTGACTGGCTCA	4020
	Dd	3961	AGCGCGCAAGAGNAATCGCTTAAGTCTCAGAAATCCAGAAATCCAGAAAGGACTCTGACTGGCTCA	4020
(QY	4021	CCTGGAGTGGAGTCTCTATCCCTGGATCTCTTCAGSGTTTCATTTGACCCACATGGTTAAG	4080
	Dd	4021	CCTGGAGTGGAGTCTCTATCCCTGGATCTCTTCAGSGTTTCATTTGACCCACATGGTTAAG	4080
	QY	4081	CTGGGAGAGCAGAGTCCCAAGAGAGCGCGGAAGGGCTATTCTGGGCAGAACACAAT	4140
	Dd	4081	CTGGGAGAGCAGAGTCCCAAGAGAGCGCGGAAGGGCTATTCTGGGCAGAACACAAT	4140
	QY	4141	TGATGACTTTATGGCTCTGTGGTCTGGGCAGAACTGCATAACCTTAGATCACCACAGCTG	4200
	Dd	4141	TGATGACTTTATGGCTCTGTGGTCTGGGCAGAACTGCATAACCTTAGATCACCACAGCTG	4200
	QY	4201	AGAGGCTTTAGGAGTGAAGATTGGGCGGGCATGGTGGCTCAGCGCTTAATCCACGCA	4260
	Dd	4201	AGAGGCTTTAGGAGTGAAGATTGGGCGGGCATGGTGGCTCAGCGCTTAATCCACGCA	4260
	QY	4261	CTTTGGGAGGCGGAGGTGGGTGCATCAGANGTCAAGAGTCAAGACCACTGACCAAC	4320
	Dd	4261	CTTTGGGAGGCGGAGGTGGGTGCATCAGANGTCAAGAGTCAAGACCACTGACCAAC	4320
	QY	4321	ATGTGTAGGCCCCATCTCTACTAAAAATACAAAAATTAGCTGAGTGATGCATGCCACCTG	4380
	Dd	4321	ATGTGTAGGCCCCATCTCTACTAAAAATACAAAAATTAGCTGAGTGATGCATGCCACCTG	4380
	QY	4381	TAAATCCAGCTACTCGGGAGGCTGAGGCGGGAGAAATCGCTTGAACCGGGAGGTGGAGG	4440
	Dd	4381	TAAATCCAGCTACTCGGGAGGCTGAGGCGGGAGAAATCGCTTGAACCGGGAGGTGGAGG	4440
f	QY	4441	TTGGGTTGGGCGGAGATTGGCCACATGCACTCCACCTTGGCGCAGACAGCGGGACTCCAT	4500
	Dd	4441	TTGGGTTGGGCGGAGATTGGCCACATGCACTCCACCTTGGCGCAGACAGCGGGACTCCAT	4500
	QY	4501	CTCAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGGTGAGGATTGGGTACCCCCAGGCTCAGAGGCCAGGGGAA	4560
	Dd	4501	CTCAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGGTGAGGATTGGGTACCCCCAGGCTCAGAGGCCAGGGGAA	4560
	QY	4561	CCTGAATGTAAGGGAAGGAAACCTTAGGCCACAGTCTGATTAGAAATGGGCTGAATT	4620
	Dd	4561	CCTGAATGTAAGGGAAGGAAACCTTAGGCCACAGTCTGATTAGAAATGGGCTGAATT	4620
	QY	4621	CCACCTGTCTTTTCCCTTACTCGAGATCAATTTGAAATTACTCTGCCCTCCCTCTATTTC	4680
	Dd	4621	CCACCTGTCTTTTCCCTTACTCGAGATCAATTTGAAATTACTCTGCCCTCCCTCTATTTC	4680
	QY	4681	CTTTTCCCTTTTAAATAGTCATCATATAAATTTCTTTTCCCAAAAAAANAANA	4740
	Dd	4681	CTTTTCCCTTTTAAATAGTCATCATATAAATTTCTTTTCCCAAAAAAANAANA	4740
	QY	4741	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA 4756	4739
	Dd	4740	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA 4755	

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241 AGAAGTTGAAACAAGAGAGTTCTTCAAGACAGTGTATTCGAAACAGAGAGACAAATG 300
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